



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 25 2001

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Andrew Jacques
Hydrocarbon Solvents HPV Consortium Manager
American Chemistry Council
1300 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Jacques:

Thank you for your December 1, 1999, letter to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Hydrocarbon Solvents HPV Consortium's sponsorship of additional chemicals under EPA's High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program. The Administrator has asked that I respond on her behalf. I apologize for the lengthy delay in replying to your letter. Before responding to your letter, I want to thank the Hydrocarbon Solvents HPV Consortium for its support of the HPV Challenge Program through its sponsorship of numerous chemicals.

In your letter, you amended your previous commitment of March 15, 1999, by sponsoring twelve additional chemicals. We have accordingly amended the commitment information for the Hydrocarbon Solvents HPV Consortium on the Chemical Right To Know (ChemRTK) website (www.epa.gov/chemrtk).

You also noted that since both p-xylene (CAS No. 106-42-3) and xylene (mixed isomers) (CAS No. 1330-20-7) were included in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) HPV Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) Program, the Hydrocarbon Solvents HPV Consortium would not be sponsoring these chemicals in the HPV Challenge Program. On March 2, 2000, the Agency assigned an indicator of "2" to p-xylene (CAS No. 106-42-3) and to xylene (mixed isomers) (CAS No. 1330-20-7) on the HPV Chemical List, indicating that these chemicals are being sponsored under the OECD HPV SIDS Program. However, since that time, EPA has learned that p-xylene (CAS No. 106-42-3) is no longer being sponsored under the OECD HPV SIDS Program. As a result, we will remove the indicator of "2" for p-xylene, (CAS No. 106-42-3), and reference to sponsorship of this chemical under the

OECD HPV SIDS Program, from the HPV Challenge Program Chemical List on our next update of the ChemRTK web site. We note, however, that p-xylene (CAS No. 106-42-3) is being sponsored under the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) HPV Initiative by BP Amoco. As a result, EPA has assigned an indicator of "4" to p-xylene (CAS No. 106-42-3).

The Agency will post your letter, accompanied by this response, on the web site approximately five days after mailing. If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Barbara Leczynski, Chief of the Existing Chemicals Branch, at (202) 260-3945. If you have any general questions concerning the HPV Challenge Program, please submit them through the ChemRTK web site comment button or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached through e-mail at tsc-hotline@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Auer, Director
Chemical Control Division

AR-201